

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Europe Regional
Program Title:	Civil Society
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	180-0210
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$3,150,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$2,309,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$1,597,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY1989
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID's program to increase the quality and quantity of citizen participation in the political and economic decision-making includes grants, training and technical assistance in the following areas: Civil society and NGO strengthening; Independent media support; Regional labor networking; and Program development support.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Civil society and NGO strengthening (\$2,153,740 AEEB). The Regional Networking Program (RNP) strengthens the capacity of NGOs to inform public opinion and to influence public policy, in order to accelerate the region's transition to open political and economic systems. Cross-border projects between CEE and NIS organizations that promote the reform process will be a priority in FY2003. Activities include a major conference, Russia-CEE exchanges, and more than \$400,000 in grants supporting cross-border cooperation in such areas as foreign policy and regional security; economic transformation and development; defense of civil, minority and human rights; and the promotion of youth engagement in policy. The principal grantee is Freedom House.

The NGO Legal Reform Initiative (NGOLRI) will continue to work throughout CEE to develop legal frameworks that support the constructive role of NGOs in their communities. Activities in FY03 to strengthen the regional network of NGO law specialists include regional workshops, analytical publications and comparative surveys, fellowship programs, educational activities, and the development of an indigenous regional resource center in Budapest. Modest levels of technical assistance in USAID close-out countries will also be provided to ensure that the legal framework continues to support NGO operations and sustainability. FY2003 is anticipated to be the last year of funding for this project. The principal grantee is the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).

The Roma Support Program, expected to begin in early 2003, will benefit Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. The program will focus on disseminating models of community services, leadership and advocacy training for Roma leaders, and media programs to improve the self-image of Roma populations and their image in society at large. The principal grantee(s) will be determined in March 2003.

Independent media support (\$450,000 AEEB). The Regional Media Program strengthens independent print and broadcast media in the region. FY2003 priorities include encouraging more cross border and regional investigative reporting; monitoring media legal issues, including the drafting and implementation of media laws; defining best practices in media development; and assessing and ranking media systems in the region through the Media Sustainability Index (MSI). The principal grantee is the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX).

Regional labor networking (\$300,000 AEEB). USAID promotes multinational cooperation among Balkan labor activists by bringing together union leaders and members through a series of roundtables, follow-up consultations, and leadership exchanges, with the aim of establishing a network that will endure beyond

the life of this activity. The principal grantee is the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS).

Program development support (\$246,094 AEEB). The above program areas will be supported by program-funded technical staff, travel, conferences, and informational meetings.

FY 2004 Program:

Civil society and NGO strengthening (\$511,650 AEEB). In FY2004, RNP will continue its efforts to strengthen key think tanks and civic organizations with institutional grants and anticipates increased regional networking and grant activities between Russia/NIS and CEE with support from USAID as well as private sources.

Independent media support (\$500,000 AEEB). The Regional Media Program will continue to support regional and cross-border media development activities, creating linkages between journalists in different countries.

Regional labor networking (\$300,000 AEEB). The sharing of lessons learned and best practices between labor activists in the Balkans will continue. Specific priorities will be determined by a mid-program assessment to be conducted in early FY2003.

Program development support (\$285,000 AEEB). Program-funded staff, travel, conferences and meetings will continue to support the above program areas.

Performance and Results: In addition to the award of 14 grants and sponsorship of partnership exchanges, RNP completed a strategic plan for the program's expansion to Russia and the NIS and to diversify funding sources for this successful networking activity. NGOLRI organized regional activities on NGO tax provisions, volunteerism and philanthropy; strengthened NGO law courses within CEE-based universities; provided comparative information to support NGO law reform in the region; and organized US fellowship programs and cross-border consultations.

The Regional Media Program published the second edition of the MSI, increased the number of investigative journalism stories that led to real reform, continued work on defining best practices in media development, and promoted greater cooperation between European partners and USAID in drafting media laws and monitoring their implementation.

As a result of regional labor union roundtables held in FY2002, activists from unions in the region formed a network to standardize their approach to dealing with issues such as in privatization, globalization, and core labor standards. As a result, regional unions are better able to negotiate with businesses and government to rebuild the social safety net and smooth the transition to a market-based economy.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Europe Regional

180-0210 Civil Society	AEEB	ESF
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	34,523	1,943
Expenditures	30,145	1,943
Unliquidated	4,378	0
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	2,987	0
Expenditures	3,452	0
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	37,510	1,943
Expenditures	33,597	1,943
Unliquidated	3,913	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	2,309	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	3,150	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	5,459	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	1,597	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	44,566	1,943